

Girls Inc. of Memphis - Youth Farm Program

In spring 2015, Girls Inc. of Memphis launched the Girls Inc. Youth Farm program in the Frayser neighborhood of Memphis, TN. We started our program with six youth crew members, who are paid hourly to grow fresh fruits and vegetables on our 9.23 acre farm in 38127. Our farmers started honing their professional skills as soon as they applied for the program; applicants must fill out a complete application - including references - before interviewing for placement on our farm crew. Once selected, our girls received training in financial literacy by learning how to set up direct deposits and handle their personal finances – in addition to learning the basics of small business management by working directly to establish, plan and document Youth Farm sales, budgeting, fundraising, and bookkeeping activities.

We respectfully request \$5,000 (to be leveraged by an anonymous matching grant) to support the purchase a new cargo/passenger van. The total cost to purchase a used, low-mileage van is between \$20,000 and \$25,000.

This investment will provide the necessary transportation for transporting our farmers, staff and crops to and from the Farmers Market on a weekly basis. We greatly appreciate your consideration for this request.

Project Budget:

<u>Committed Funding</u>	<u>Pending Funding</u>
\$6,000 – Hohenberg Foundation	\$5,000 – Shelby County Commission
\$3,000 – Lichterman-Loewenberg Foundation	\$5,000 – Anonymous (matching gift)
\$9,000 – Total Committed (as of 6/23/16)	\$10,000 – Total Pending (as of 6/23/16)